

THE ANGLO-CALIFORNIAN BANK, LIMITED.

The second annual general meeting of shareholders was held on Monday, March 18th, at the offices, 8, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, the Hon. Hugh MacLennan in the chair. Mr. J. E. Cussons (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the following report of the directors was taken as read:

"The directors have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders the annual statement of the bank's profits and loss account to 31st December, 1873. The capital called up was paid in the months of April, May, and June, 1873, and the bank commenced active operations on the 2nd July following. The directors are glad to state that no bad debts have been incurred, the gross profits amount to £29,046 16s. 1d., and after deducting charges of interest, all charges of the bank, and the cost of the San Francisco office, as well as writing off the bank's preliminary expenses, there remains a net profit of £16,482 6s. 6d., being above 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital; and out of this amount it has been resolved to declare an interim dividend of 8s. per share, free of income-tax, leaving £9,482 6s. 6d. to be carried forward to the next account. The interim dividend will be paid on the 1st August, and the directors are requested to make arrangements for the payment of the same on the 1st August, and the general prosperity of the Pacific Coast, and the state of California in particular, during the past year, as shown by the statistics of the exports of wheat, wool, precious metals, &c., have been remarkable, and the directors confidently anticipate a profitable and satisfactory result from the business of this bank for the coming year. The directors are also of the opinion that the opportunities for trade and the soul and ability employed by the managers and staff, Mr. Sabey, originally one of the auditors of the company, has been elected a member of the board, Mr. Sydney M. Samuel succeeding him as auditor."

The Chairman said he trusted that the report, which spoke for itself, would be satisfactory to the whole body of shareholders. From the report it could have been noticed that the net earnings of the bank for the six months had been over 5 per cent. It would also have been perceived that the whole of the expenses incurred by the bank (including the organisation expenses) had been charged, so that from this time forth they would appear with a clean balance-sheet. There had not profits amounted to something over 10 per cent. on the capital, but it had been the case of many other institutions, that having defrained charging the whole of the extraordinary organisation expenses, as was often done in companies; but the directors of this bank concluded that it would be better that they should be charged against the profits realised, and thus got rid of them at once. But it had to be borne in mind that this bank succeeded in being a very good business, and were not behind the other institutions of this business, still they were greatly indebted to their managers in San Francisco for the ability, prudence, and energy with which they had managed the company. They reported, and the directors had reason to believe, that no bad debts had been incurred, although the business of the company was rapidly increasing. The shareholders were a very large number, and in which the bank had been engaged, there had been a severe panic in the United States, probably the most severe panic ever felt in that country. Fortunately for the bank, the panic had not very prejudicially affected San Francisco. The San Francisco folks' opinion as to currency differed from the opinions of American financiers in general; they still believed that specie was the proper circulation, at the same time, however, of the circulation, and while managers of the bank there kept on ready sound financial views, the shareholders need have nothing to fear in the way of financial disasters. (Cheers). The directors had good reason to believe that their financial agents in San Francisco were exceedingly prudent men. The directors had very carefully watched the business, and when from the other side, they could not complain of any misdealing, perhaps, too great consideration, (cheers); but they would not complain of the composer. The aim of the directors would be to make this institution, so far as they could control it, a good business, creditable to themselves and the proprietors, as giving good results to them. He was not aware that any other feature in their operations called for special comment, but the directors would be most happy to hear any suggestions, or to answer any questions. He anticipated that at their next meeting some very valuable results would have been arrived at. (Cheers). It would be necessary to fix the date for their meetings, and he suggested that September and March should be fixed, as their financial year closed in the month of June.

Mr. A. Stead proposed, and Mr. J. Selwyn seconded, that the ordinary meeting of the Bank should be held in the first fortnight in September.

The motion was carried unanimously.

After a few remarks from two or three shareholders, the business of the ordinary meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors proposed by Mr. Montague.

The meeting then became special; and on the motion of Mr. Cornwall, seconded by Mr. Sabey, the following resolution was passed:—"That the words 'to be called founders' should be omitted from Article 68 of the Articles of Association of the Bank, and that the word 'deferred' be substituted for the word 'founders' wherever the same appears in the Articles of Association of the Bank."

The Chairman intimated that it would be necessary to confirm this resolution at a special meeting to be held on April 1st.

The meeting then ended.—Finis.

A RESULT OF KIDNAPPING.

(To the Editor of the "Times.") Sir.—I have received the following extract from the Sydney "Herald" for November 1873.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Edward, at present employed on one of the five schooners for the suppression of kidnapping in the South Seas.

I am, Sir, &c.

F. H. SUCKLING.

Bishopsgate Rectory, Bexley, Suffolk.

"WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER IN THE SOUTH SEA."—On the arrival of His Majesty's steamer "Bellerophon" on the 15th inst., it was found in possession of the following particulars respecting the wholesale and most terrible slaughter of the crew of the bark "Pluto":—

"The "Pluto," 280 tons, Captain Clarke, owned by Mr. Collingwood, of Sunderland, sailed from Newcastle, New South Wales, on the 20th of April, bound for Hongkong, with a cargo of coal. She got on shore on a reef outlying the N. Calcedonian, and all the crew were lost, and unfortunately the boat got on a reef. Being without any arms, the crew soon ranged alongside and ruthlessly slaughtered all on board the boat with the exception of one man named John Collins, who had been spared to describe the horrible scene. The man was terribly wounded by arrows, but principally about the lower part of the body, and died on the 1st of May. The natives of the locality that, where death did not at once ensue, the victim must not be again attacked, and he is taken from further harm. He was taken on shore, and would appear to have been well-treated. While at the "Banks" group, Lieutenant Stuckling received intelligence from the missionaries that a white man was in the hands of the natives at Malacca, and that the natives had been captured by the steamer, and after considerable difficulty succeeded in getting the unfortunate man out of their hands, and placing him safely on board the "Renard." Her Majesty's ship "Dido" was taken, with shortly after and Collins transferred to her, having been in the hands of the natives two months. Collins stated that the other officer, who was in the boat, had been dead, and had cut his throat, and killed himself with his own knife. The "Renard" also found four of the missing men of the ship "Robert Towne" of the south part of Malacca Island, where they had been almost six weeks. The natives treated them kindly up to that time, but they were getting tired of them, and it is not impossible that they would have killed them. Captain Macdonald, of the schooner "Sundew," went to the "Renard" with Lieutenant Stuckling, and Malacca Island, and treated with the natives for their release, which was conceded on payment of nine tomahawks."

MUSICAL PERQUISITES.

The Caucasus no longer deserves its Horn-spicet of "Inhospitable"—at any rate singers will not think so. The people of Tiflis have recently shown how far any "soften the manners and not suffice them to be a wade" by throwing to a favored private audience, but, in this case, the "soften" has quite tied up with the "wade" and of course now becomes a necessary "soothe"—Tiflis by their more substantial, and, no doubt, more acceptable value. There is something to be said in favour of making presents to well-paid artists, as there is for giving "gratuities" to railway porters and waiters. It is not difficult to profitably ill-use the art, but it is less objectionable that the practice lately introduced in Boston, where a payment of about £2,000 was made to a famous singer of night's singing. It is this that for a star about profit of which a fair share might otherwise be spent in teaching audiences that there is much more good operatic music in the world than is dreamt of in their costly experience. The system of Tiflis is economy itself when compared with that of robbing music in order to overpay a few musicians.—Globe.

ORGANIZATION AGAIN.

We noticed the other day the submersion of the organization question upon which may be called a practical or economic stage. But some ingenious people have now discovered that there is a religious phase of the subject, and as himself is a matter on which everybody thinks himself competent to pronounce an opinion, we may look for a very extensive crop of correspondence on this question. It will be seen that the first fruits of the crop, a correspondent of the Standard yesterday says that "Christianity is gradually sinking from a continuance of the heathen practice of destruction by fire," because "it was always regarded as the special type of Divine vengeance," all things visible being regarded "as symbols of unseen realities." Another correspondent says that the first writer "has forgotten that the "Divine vengeance" is symbolised by the word that death is," as well as by "the fire that is not quenched." From this it would appear that the Standard's correspondent regards the "word that death" not as a symbol of Divine vengeance, but as a symbol of destruction by fire, to which he has been led by the soul and the ability employed by the managers and staff. Mr. Sabey, originally one of the auditors of the company, has been elected a member of the board, Mr. Sydney M. Samuel succeeding him as auditor."

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THE ECONOMICAL CONTEST.

IN GERMANY.—The Times, referring to the arrest of the Archbishop of Cologne and the Bishop of Trier, observes that from our English point of view the vehemence of the German Government becomes more and more inexplicable. It is said that the political disposition and teaching of the Roman Church are dangerous to the State, and that the Pope is a dangerous enemy to the State. What was done to the Pope, and the Council, may have been done to tars, which gave place to a sense of satisfaction when it was discovered that the corpse was still recognisable to fear in the way of financial disasters. (Cheers). The directors had good reason to believe that their financial agents in San Francisco were exceedingly prudent men. The directors had very carefully watched the business, and when from the other side, they could not complain of any misdealing, perhaps, too great consideration, (cheers); but they would not complain of the composer. The aim of the directors would be to make this institution, so far as they could control it, a good business, creditable to themselves and the proprietors, as giving good results to them. He was not aware that any other feature in their operations called for special comment, but the directors would be most happy to hear any suggestions, or to answer any questions. He anticipated that at their next meeting some very valuable results would have been arrived at. (Cheers). It would be necessary to fix the date for their meetings, and he suggested that September and March should be fixed, as their financial year closed in the month of June.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

MAY 24TH, EVENING.—New Patna, 555 to 557; New Benares, 554 to 554; no change in other kinds.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—Bank, on demand, 4/4 to 4/3.

Bank, at 30 days' sight, 4/4.

Bank, at 6 months' sight, 4/4.

Documentary Bills, at 6 months' sight, 4/4.

Bank, 4

Extracts.

THERMUTHIS.

And the daughter of Pharec came down to wash herself at the river.—*Beauties* 2, v.
So calm is not a full red sun descending
Over Shire's stream;—
Its light, its golden splendour, bending
To the strunge scene;

No day disturbs the dark and sacred water;
Of life there is no sign;

When of Thermuthis comes—the beauteous daughter
Of the royal shepherd line—

To where the cypress its leaves is throwing
Shut, and tall;

She conveys her bright jewels in the sunbeam glowing
With her hair, and from her luteful foot have taken
The sandal with gold

And feather swans away, and palm leaves taken
Till the warm air breathes cold;

They loose her robes, and from her hairy hoof

The hairy thus take;

The lute, brooding on the bank, they hear

By the loud truth they make;

She stands on the bank, her hair entwined

With the lute, and from the lute she takes;

Curled the lute, lute, and lute behind

The towers of Memphis rise;

Its massive temples, giant forms of stone

Green for a moment in the sun's last ray;

The past and gone—the memory alone

Remains of those old days.

The dark-breasted prince, and her virgin band
Made in the night of that mysterious land.

DRAMMING.

WOLFE'S ESCALADE.

Slinging their muskets, and climbing some
With their swords in their teeth, the Frasers
scrabbled up the steep and woody precipice,
grasping the roots of trees, the tufts of grass,
the rocks, and whatever might aid their ascent,
till the summit was won; and rushing on,
daybreak in hand, they dislodged a captain's
guard which manned a battery near it, and
possessed themselves of a narrow path which
enabled their comrades of Louisbourg and
the line to reach all the sooner the plateau,
which stands 250 feet above the flowing river.
Following the Highlanders, Wolfe was soon
on the plateau of the precipice, and with
ardour he forced his troops in contiguous
columns of regiments as they came telling
up; and as the rising sun began to gild the
spires and ramparts of Quebec, and the far
stretching bosom of the mighty St. Lawrence,
he had his whole force marching in battle
array along the famous Heights of Abraham,
with colours flying and all their bayonets
glittering. To keep the redoubt taken by
the Frasers, to cover the landing-place, and
to act as a rear-guard, he left two companies,
and at once began to descend from the green
slopes toward the city.—*British Battles on
Land and Sea*, by James Grant.

A VILLAGE EMBEDDED IN ICE.

A despatch from Halifax, Nova Scotia,
dated March 10th, published in the *New York Times*, says:—Innumerable damage was done in
Sherbrooke, Gaspé County, about
ninety miles from this place, by a freshet on
Wednesday last. The St. Mary's River was
swollen by the rain and thaw. A couple of
miles above Sherbrooke there is a natural
dam of rocks across the river, beyond which
ice on this portion of the freshet broke up
in consequence of the freshet and flooded the
whole of the valley. On the left bank of the
river where Sherbrooke is situated the scene
was a fearful one. The flood brought down
thousands of tons of ice, and great numbers
of logs. Whole trees were uprooted from
the banks in the course of the torrent.
The solid ice before the village remained
firm, and the flats upon which Sherbrooke
stands became a boiling sea. Boats and
canoes were in demand. Every house was
flooded. The cattle were driven out of
town by persons on horseback. The women,
children, and aged people were taken away
in boats. Many families abandoned their
houses altogether while others took refuge
in the upper stories. Two bridges in the
village, and a large bridge over the St.
Mary's River, are gone. A new vessel nearly
ready for launching was destroyed, and
much timber carried away. The day after
the flood the mountains of ice, and the logs,
trees, and other debris, became frozen solid,
so that the village is now embedded in a
frozen sea. The ruin is indescribable; it
extends a mile and a half in length by a mile
in breadth. In the event of a sudden thaw
the village will be quite destroyed.

WAR-WANDERINGS IN ASIA.

"We must get out here, David Stav-

ovich!" The shrill call sweeps away my
visions, and I look up to find myself in front
of a jutty hut—alone amid the wilderness of
grave—beside which three or four wild-look-

ing men are groped around a huge native
wheel, seven good feet in diameter, and
possibly (like Harold Hardrade, "a few
inches more") Mourad hastily explains that
to ford the Zor-Afshan in our little post-

cart will be certain destruction to our bag-

gage, and that we had better migrate to the
arab—a vehicle which, light, strong, and
(thanks to its breadth) almost impossible to
overturn, seems made for a Turkoman road
as the camel is for the desert. The trans-
fer is soon effected, but it takes some
time to secure our packages against the
tremendous shaking which awaits them; and
our careful lurcher goes over his whole
body to let go. But the reckless Bok-
harites, who care little if we and all our be-
longings go to the bottom, provided they get
their money, cut him short by leaping on to
the front of the huge tray, and heading right
down upon the river. We make five or six
leisure forecrossings before coming to the real
one, the Zor-Afshan (like Central Asian
rivers generally) being given to wasting its
strength in minor channels; but even these
run with a force and swiftness which show us
what we have to expect. At length, after
a comparatively long interval of bare
ground, the two Bokharites suddenly plant
themselves back to back, with their feet
against the sides of the cart; the barabalis
for a moment, as it gather strength for its
final leap, and then rushes into the stream.
And now comes the tug of war. The wheels
have barely made three turns in the water
when the huge machine trembles under a
shock like the collision of a train; and to
one going to the left and the other to the right?
and either will swing on the wind, swaying
over the ground rather than turn to other
way.

The ketman opens at nine o'clock in the
morning, and slants at ten, as if it had a
natural weakness; while a bed of pebbles
is buffeting against the bottom of the arab,
and splashing over our feet as we sit. More
than once the horses stop short, and plant
their feet firmly, to save themselves from
being swept down; and the roar of the
churning pebbles comes up to us like the
trump of a charging squadron. In the
midst of the din and bumpy-bumpy, the
terrible thought suddenly occurs to me: "By
Jove, all the sugar's in the bottom of my
chest!" "I'll be all melted, to a certainty!"

"Shouldn't wonder," remarks my friend,
with that air of forebodings with which men are
wont to bear the misfortunes of other people.

However, you can get some more at Samara-

ca, and after all, a rusk lined with sugar
will to worth exhibiting in England; for you
ever get there." For the next few moments
it is "tough and, go!" with us; but, even
among Asians, nothing can be put out among
civvies. Little by little, the water grows
shallower, the ground firmer, the strain less
violent, till at length we come out upon dry
land once more, decent the contents of the
arab back again into the cart, reward our
plots at the rate of sixpence a piece, and are
off again.—*The Road to Khatia*. By David
Kerr.

FRENCH VIEW OF SIR ROGER DE
COVERLEY.

The rules of politeness are never at variance
with the principles of morality. Whatever
is really impudent is really immoral. We have
no right to offend people, with our manners
or conversation. We have no right to do
with or be influenced by gossip about the
people we meet. Their private affairs are
none of our business. If we believe a man
to be unfit company for us, we must not
invite him, but if we meet him where he has
been invited by others, we must treat him
with civility. If we know a man or woman
to be a grave offender, we cannot use that
knowledge to injure him or her, unless it is
absolutely necessary for the protection of others.

The greatest and best men in the world have
been assailed with calumny. The purest
and noblest do not always escape it. We
cannot investigate so well as we must dis-
regard all slanders. Where great offenses
become notorious, the offenders must be
communicated. In all other cases we must
give every one the benefit of a doubt; apply
scrutinizing constructions, hope for the best,
and consider every one innocent until he is
proved guilty. How to behave.

A NATURAL LAWYER.

The following very examination of candidates
for the admission to the bar, is taken
from the *Western Law Journal*. The exam-
ination commenced with: "Do you know
what is a *sorcery*?" "I do, sir." "Have you a *spare
smoke*?" "I have six." (Extends a short
cigar.) "Now, sir, what is the first duty of a
lawyer?" "To collect fees, sir." "What
is the second?" "To increase the number
of clients?" "What does the position toward
a man's wife?" "When making out a
bill of costs?" "Explains?" "We then
occupy his antagonistic position. I become
a plaintiff, and he becomes the defendant."

"Sir, decided, how do you stand with the
lawyers on the other side?" "Cheek by
jowl," "Enough, sir. You promise to be
an ornament to your profession, and I wish
you success." "Now are you aware of the duty
of *to sue*?" "It is to ask you to take a drink." "But suppose I decline?" (Candidate
scratches his head.) "There is no instance
of the kind in the books. I cannot answer
the question." "You are right. And the
confidence with which you make the asser-
tion shows conclusively that you read the
law attentively. Let's take a drink, and I
will sign the certificate once."

This notice was lately posted in the vestibule
of a kirk in Scotland:—The persons who stole
"Songs of the Sanctuary" from post No. 32
should improve the opportunity of singing them
here, as he will have no occasion to sing them
hereafter."

THE CURIOUS WAYS OF HANTS.
(The *Christian Weekly—American paper*.)

Who can account for the ways of plants,
or explain why a certain species will grow in
one place, and will not in another exactly
similar, so far as human intelligence de-
termines?

The American also is a hundred years in
getting ready to flower, whereas the ground

whereas like Jack's bean stalk. See wild
flowers disappear on the advance of civilization

while, on the other hand, the plantain,
if the truth is told, goes wherever Europeans
go; and in this country was unknown until
after the English came, following a closely

on their tracks that the Indians gave it the
name of "white man's foot."

Some varieties, as above, intimated, may
be found in a particular locality, and no-
where else within half a dozen miles. There
is, for example, in this neighborhood, in
central New England, one spot where are a
few shrubs of the mountain laurel ("spoon
wood") in a little patch by the roadside;

and although this would seem an unusual
country for it, it can't be discovered in no
other place anywhere about.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO.

of 171 Hongkong 1st March, 1874.

CHINA AND JAPAN MARINE INSUR-
ANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE.

AT THIS date a brokerage of Thirty-three
and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be
allowed by this Agency on risks to ports in
CHINA, JAPAN, the PHILIPPINES, and the
STRAITS.

On risks to all other ports, the brokerage will
be ten per cent. (10%) only.

WE, PUSTAU & CO.,
Agents.

of 131 Hongkong, 21st January, 1874.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant INSURANCES to the extent
of \$5,000, or draft on the same, rates
of 10% per cent. and one-half per cent.

MELCHERS & CO.

of 674 Hongkong, 1st May, 1874.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE undersigned having been appointed
Agents in Hongkong for the above Com-
pany, are prepared to grant Marine risks at
current rates.

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AT THIS date a brokerage of Thirty-three
and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be
allowed by this Agency on risks to ports in
CHINA, JAPAN, the PHILIPPINES, and the
STRAITS.

On risks to all other ports, the brokerage will
be ten per cent. (10%) only.

WE, PUSTAU & CO.,
Agents.

of 131 Hongkong, 21st January, 1874.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant INSURANCES to the extent
of \$5,000, or draft on the same, rates
of 10% per cent. and one-half per cent.

MELCHERS & CO.

of 674 Hongkong, 1st May, 1874.

PHENIX FIELD INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE undersigned having been appointed
Agents for this date, and until further
notice, to grant INSURANCES to the extent
of \$10,000, or draft on the same, rates
of 10% per cent. and one-half per cent.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.

Agents.

of 1192 Hongkong 27th June, 1872.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

THE undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant INSURANCES as follows:

MARINE RISKS.

Policies granted at current rates, payable either here,

in London, or at the principal ports of India,

Australia, and the East.

A BROKERAGE of THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-
HALF PER CENT. will be allowed on all LOCAL
RISKS.

FIRE RISKS.

Policies granted on first-class Buildings to

an extent of \$20,000 per cent.

Upon the current local rates of premium will be allowed on

the premium charged for insurance; such dis-

count being deducted at the time of the issue
of policy.

RUSSELL & CO.,
Agents.

of 171 Hongkong, 26th June, 1872.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

GRANTED to all the Trade Ports of

China and Japan, and at Singapore,
Penang, and Pusan.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance

granted at the rates of Premium current at the
above-mentioned Ports.

No charge for Policy fees.

JAS. B. OUGHTRIE,
Secretary.

of 119 Hongkong, 1st November, 1871.

NOTICE.

AT THIS date the following rates

will be charged for SHORT PERIOD

INSURANCES, viz.

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.

Exceeding 1 month, 1/2 do. do.